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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/579,485	05/16/2006	Dieter Kleyer	2003P16452WOUS	1613
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SIEMENS CORPORATION				
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT				
170 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH				
ISELIN, NJ 08830				
EXAMINER				
PHAM, THOMAS K				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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05/16/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/579,485

Applicant(s)

KLEYER ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas K. Pham

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 13 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12 and 14-16 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

First Action on the Merits

1. Claims 9-16 of U.S. Application 10/579,485 filed on 05/16/2006 are presented for examination.
2. Claims 1-8 are cancelled.

Quotations of U.S. Code Title 35

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention. “Office personnel are to give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969)” (MPEP p2100-8, c 2, I 45-48; p 2100-9, c 1, I 1-4). The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. The Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in meaning.

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 05/16/2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 10-12 and 14-16 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims are depended on cancelled claims. Accordingly, the claims 10-12 and 14-16 not been further treated on the merits. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. Claims 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,003,688 ("Pittelkow").

Regarding claim 9

Pittelkow teaches a redundant automation system for controlling a technical device (e.g. col. 3 lines 62-65, fail-safe and fail-over operation), comprising: a first automation device identified as a master automation device (e.g. col. 9 lines 50-60, master controller); a second automation device identified as a standby automation device (e.g. col. 12 lines 16-21, slave controllers), and a memory unit operatively connected to the first and second automation devices that includes a common memory area that can be written to and read by the first and second automation devices (e.g. col. 4 lines 1-7, common memory storage device) and stores status data of the first and second automation devices wherein the data present in the memory area is available in parallel to

the first and second automation devices (e.g. col. 4 lines 19-29, each controller is permitted to have read access to all of the respective storage portions).

Regarding claim 13

Pittelkow teaches a method for operating a redundant automation system for controlling a technical device (e.g. col. 3 lines 62-65, fail-safe and fail-over operation), comprising: operating a first automation device as a master (e.g. col. 9 lines 50-60, master controller); operating a second automation device as a standby (e.g. col. 12 lines 16-21, slave controllers); and storing status data of the first and second automation devices in a memory unit wherein a common memory area of the memory unit can be written to and read from by the at least two automation devices (e.g. col. 4 lines 1-7, common memory storage device), wherein the data present in the memory area is available in parallel to the automation devices (e.g. col. 4 lines 19-29, each controller is permitted to have read access to all of the respective storage portions).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Albert Decady* at (571) 272-3819.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to: **Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450**. Responses may also be faxed to the **official fax number (571) 273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham

/Thomas K Pham/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2121

May 17, 2008